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SHOPS AND CAR PARKS TO CLOSE UNTIL 'ALL CLEAR'

NEW SAFETY UPDATE AHEAD OF GREYFRIARS' SITE DEMOLITION

The main shopping street in Northampton will be closed while the town's former bus station is demolished and a 'large dust cloud' is likely to be thrown up as the building collapses, latest information has revealed.

Northampton Borough Council has released more details on the 'safety zone' which will be set up to keep people away from the demolition site on Sunday, March 15.

It announced that a number of roads would be closed on the day, including the town's main shopping street, Abington Street, as well as Albert Street, Wellington Street, Greyfriars, Lady's Lane, part of Sheep Street, Newland and Victoria Street.

A spokesman said: "The exclusion zone has been set to contain much of the [dust] cloud as well as keep people

safely back from the demolition."

Street sweepers will move in to clear up the area immediately after the building is collapsed.

The council has also announced that the North Gate bus station will remain open on the day, with services stopping only 'briefly' when Greyfriars is 'blown down'.

Coach services will be redirected to use The Drapery.

However the exact time of the demolition is not yet known as contractors, DSM Demolition, will need to be sure the exclusion zone is clear before the demolition takes place.

A map of the exclusion zone, which encompasses 414 properties, is available online at www.northampton.gov.uk/greyfriars.

The exclusion zone will be in place by 8am, and anyone living within it will be eva-

cated by that time.

Letters have been sent to all residents and businesses in the zone to explain what the arrangements will be on the day.

Businesses within the zone, which includes the Grosvenor Centre, will be closed, but the council said they will be able to open as soon as the demolition is completed and the all-clear given.

The Grosvenor Centre and Mayorhold multi-storey car parks will be closed from 6pm on Saturday, March 14, but will also re-open as soon as it is safe to do so.

Wellington Street, Upper Mounts and Campbell Square car parks will also be closed in the morning but will reopen later in the day.

To view the demolition live on the day, visit the Chronicle & Echo's webcam at www.northamptonchron.co.uk which is live now.



Abington Street and the Grosvenor Centre will be closed on March 15 until Greyfriars is 'blown down'

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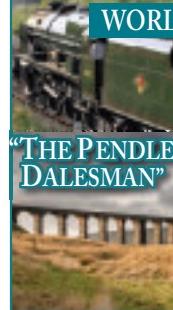
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Terry Wright with some of the trophies he has won during his 56 years as a hairdresser in Northampton

Barber goes out in style after 56 years

One of Northampton's oldest and best-known hairdressers is retiring after 56 years in the job.

Terry Wright, who began working for Faulkner's barber shop in Mercer's Row, in the town centre as an apprentice at the age of 15, said it was the only job he had ever had.

Now aged 71, Mr Wright, who lives off Station Road in Blisworth, applied for the position in 1959 after seeing a local job advertisement.

He said: "I was going to be a carpenter and was top of my woodwork class at school, but I saw the advert and liked the idea of something different."

He quickly picked up the trade and was cutting hair by himself within just a few months. During the 1960s, he was named Northampton's champion hairdresser seven times in a row; so many times that he was eventually given the trophy to keep.

Mr Wright said: "I must be one of the oldest in town now.

"I've always really enjoyed meeting people and having a good chat.

"Some of my longest customers and I now consider

each other good friends.

"I know so many people in Northampton that I can't walk across Market Square without someone shouting 'Hi, Tel', that's my nickname."

Mr Wright took over Faulkner's about six years ago when the last remaining family hairdresser, Wally, retired at 85 years old.

He has cut hair for the likes of pop star Marc Almond and several snooker celebrities.

In the last 56 years, he has mastered so many hairstyles that some have even gone and come back into fashion again. He said: "When I was starting out it was all Teddy Boy styles and now that retro stuff has become popular again. I have been in my element for the last couple of years.

"I've done them all over the years, perms, mullets, the lot.

"If it wasn't for my health I would probably keep going."

Mr Wright has been involved in national hairdresser training since the 1970s.

Now he hopes to spend more time fishing and with his two sons and two grandchildren, as well as gardening with his wife and childhood sweetheart, Ann.



One of oldest town barber shops

■ Closing this year following Terry Wright's retirement, Faulkner's is one of the oldest hairdressers in Northampton, established in 1830 in Marefair.

■ Mr Wright joined the business in 1959, when it was operating in Newland, before moving into the Mercer's Row premises.

■ Located in the centre of the town, opposite All Saints Church, it has been a popular barbers for generations.

■ Mr Wright said: "We've

had clients from all walks of life through the door, from labourers to a High Court Judge. I would like to thank them all for their loyalty."

■ He once cut the hair of Darling Buds of May actor, Philip Franks, before his performance in a play at the nearby Royal & Derngate theatre. He said: "It was a sort of basin cut and I thought it looked terrible, but he was very happy with it. He was a smashing chap - one of the nicest I've met."

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Coach passengers

A new facility for coach passengers could be set up on land near Sheep Street, to the west of Northampton's former Greyfriars bus station.

Northampton Borough Council has said that talks are being held about an "improved facility" near the Mayorhold car park.

Coaches currently leave from shelters in Victoria Street, where toilets have recently been installed for waiting passengers, after passengers complained of a lack of facilities.

And the council has also announced it is working with National Express to relocate evening coach services into the North Gate Bus Station later this year.

A spokeswoman said: "Some work on the site has already begun and a feasibility study is already looking at the creation of a new, improved facility for coaches on the western island section.

"This would replace the Victoria Street coach stop and complement the facilities at North Gate."



Waste land between the old Greyfriars bus station and the new North Gate Interchange could be used as a coach stop for National Express

She added: "The shelters and toilet recently installed at Victoria Street coach stop were designed to be suitable for easy relocation and can be moved to the new coach station site."

The announcements are part of a 'concept plan' being worked on to guide the development of the Greyfriars site after the demolition of the old bus station on March 15.

opment of the Greyfriars site after the demolition of the old bus station on March 15.

The four-acre site was subject to a public consultation carried out last year, which offered more than 300 ideas for cultural, retail, transport, residential, commercial and community uses.

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ture regeneration in the town centre as part of our ongoing Northampton Alive strategy, which has already brought a number of significant developments to the town.

"We have already had interest in the site from a number of developers and it is important we have expert advice on the options for the site so that we make the best possible decisions for the future."

Passengers waiting for coaches in Victoria Street

yesterday said they were in favour of new facilities, but were sceptical about how it would work logistically.

Kay Taylor, aged 54, from St James, said: "The traffic in Sheep Street is jammed all the time. Coaches turning on any of those nearby roads will make it worse."

Perry Grange, aged 41, from Bellinge, said: "The banked underpass at the edge of the site makes it dangerous for reversing, you'd have thought."

Work could start this year

■ Work on developing a new coach stop could begin later this year.

■ The go-ahead on a concept plan will be discussed at cabinet meeting on Wednesday, March 4. If approved, a specialist company will produce a plan by July.

■ When Greyfriars has been demolished, on Sunday, March 15, the site will be cleared for development by the demolition contractors.

■ It will then be handed back to the borough council this summer with services transferred from Victoria Street (right) soon after.

■ Lib Dem leader Brendan Glynane said the overall development of the Greyfriars area was of great significance and must be handled carefully. He said: "We don't want a single-storey shed, we want a proper integrated station."

The spokeswoman said the plan would look at the best way to mix a number of uses to "work with other regeneration in Northampton and take the town forward into the future".

Councillor David Mackintosh said: "Greyfriars offers a stunning opportunity for fu-

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East Midlands Ambulance Service has seen a large increase in the number of hours lost to sickness absences

999 crews lost 80,000 hours due to sickness

East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) is discussing ways to cover sickness absence after losing more than 80,000 hours last year due to increased staff illness.

A rise in staff absences in Northamptonshire meant that EMAS spent less time in responding to calls, losing a total of 80,369 man hours during 2014, compared to 61,361 in 2013.

During a meeting with the EMAS Trust Board, directors explained that recent rises in staff sickness were often linked to stress and correlated to a rise in calls and increased pressure on the ambulance service in general.

Figures collected by the board showed a 45 per cent increase in higher-emergency 'red' calls in January this year compared to the same

time last year. The statistics also showed a 66 per cent increase in 'green' calls, which often include elderly or vulnerable people suffering falls or ongoing illnesses.

Kerry Gulliver, EMAS's acting director of workforce and engagement, said: "We have seen a six per cent increase year-on-year in calls in Northamptonshire.

"We have been trying to respond by working on staff absences, as well as reducing annual leave and time off," she added.

Another board member added: "Staff are working harder and harder and are being put under more pressure with higher volumes of emergency calls.

"This has led to increased sickness levels, so we must also make sure we are recruiting new staff."

Traumatic calls lead to stress

■ Stress caused by traumatic incidents is a main reason for ambulance staff sickness, explained Blanche Lentz, general manager for EMAS in Northamptonshire.

■ She said: "The health and wellbeing of staff is an absolute priority. The role of frontline clinicians can be physically demanding and the traumatic incidents we respond to can cause increased stress.

■ Significant work is being done to improve the way we support staff in getting back to work as quickly as possible and we have seen a consistent drop in our staff sickness levels."

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

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Nostalgic pop acts at Saints

Rick Astley, who performed at Delapre Abbey last summer, will return to Northampton this May with other pop acts.

Rick will be part of a special 1980s' spectacular that will take over Franklin's Gardens on Monday, May 25, to help the Saints celebrate the end of the 2014/15 season.

Other confirmed acts include Hot Chocolate; Cheryl Baker, Mike Nolan and Jay Aston (all formerly of Bucks Fizz); Toyah; Altered Images; Odyssey; and Katrina (formerly of Katrina and the Waves).

The Party at the Gardens will have standing tickets on the main pitch available (£29), as well as seats in the stands (£25). Picnic packages are also available to order in advance.

Tickets can be booked now at the Franklin's Gardens ticket office or online via www.northamptonsaints.co.uk/buytickets

Allan Robson, the Saints chief executive, said: "The atmosphere created for matches at Franklin's Gardens is renowned across the rugby world, but we've staged many a great occasion for the whole community as well, including



Rick Astley will be one of the acts at The Party in the Gardens in May

musical fireworks displays and the town show.

"Party at the Gardens will see us celebrate the end of a spectacular season, but it is also about inviting the whole town to join us and kick off the summer as well."

"All the acts who will take

to the stage are guaranteed to give everyone a great time, playing the hits that made them famous.

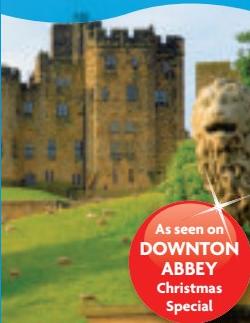
"We're looking forward to it and are looking forward to welcoming as many people as possible to Franklin's Gardens this May."

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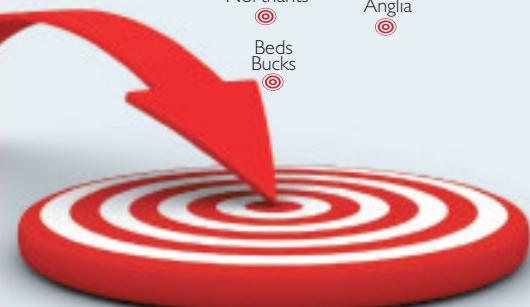
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Water leak 'will not be fixed until April'

A leaking pipe that has flooded a road in Northamptonshire for a week will not be repaired until the end of April.

Water has been steadily trickling down Preston Deanery Road, which runs between Quinton and Preston Deanery, since at least February 18.

However, Gavin Hardy, who reported the problem, has been told by Anglian Water that it is unable to take action for two months because it does not have permission to close the road.

Mr Hardy said: "There are two issues, here. One is that the leak is flooding land around it, including access to two places of work.

"The other is the amount of water that will be lost over the course of two months. I'm sure that, come the summer, Anglian Water will be ordering us not to use hosepipes, yet they seem content to watch gallons of it dribble away."

An email to Mr Hardy from Anglian Water said they understood from the council that



Resident Gavin Hardy took this picture of leaking water near Quinton

the length of the diversion created by closing the road had delayed permission being granted. Work would take up to three days.

It said: "Northamptonshire County Council Highways will have taken this into account when we requested the road closure and have determined that they are not prepared to allow us to close the road until

the end of April.

"Unfortunately as they are responsible for the road network, we are bound by the instructions of the local council and we have to compromise within their timescale.

A spokesman for Northamptonshire County Council said: "The council co-ordinates utility company works on the highways so that disruption to the travelling public is kept to a minimum.

"Applications which require a road closure, such as this, normally need a three-month notice period to make sure people have plenty of time to plan in advance.

"However, the system is run in a pragmatic way so that if utility firms need immediate access for emergency repairs, they are allowed access to the highway. For regular applications, utility firms can also ask for an early start date, which on this occasion has not been applied for."

Anglian Water added that, if the leak worsened, they could request a higher priority.

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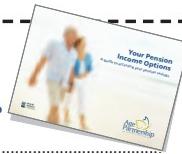
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JPPress14

Thursday, March 5, 2015

Motors

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Truly handsome Discovery

It is Land Rover's good fortune that looks now weigh heavy in the thinking of people, from China to California, when they go hunting for a set of go-anywhere wheels.

The company has plenty of cars that fit the bill today.

The most catwalk-focused is the Evoque, still selling in expensive shed loads after its launch in 2011 and still the sharpest suit in the off-road world. Drives well too.

And now comes the latest from the Land Rover stable, the Discovery Sport. A bit less obviously blinged-up than the

Evoque, it is intended to fill a more practical role.

That shows in the three rows of seats that come as standard on all UK-bound cars. The boot is huge with the rear-most seats folded into the floor and still spacious enough for a decent supermarket shop with them both occupied.

It still weighs more than 1.8 tonnes; enough to have you fearing for its fuel consumption. Especially as all UK cars are fitted with the more powerful of two diesel engines.

But then factor in the nine forward speeds on offer and you might be pleasantly sur-

prised. The automatic car tested here showed 36mpg after a brisk morning run. Owners seeking better can save £1,800 and take a manual Discovery Sport.

They will find cars equipped with a fine satellite navigation system and enough performance to make the Sport tag more than a mere marketing ploy.

The car rides nicely too, only being upset on its big 19-inch alloys over some surfaces disturbed by tree roots.

Off road the new car will tackle anything anyone will ever throw at it.



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Model shown is MY14 Auris Hybrid Icon Plus 5-door hatchback 1.8 VVT-i Auto (CVT) at £21,545.00. Prices correct at time of going to press. *0% APR Representative and £750 Finance Deposit Allowance only available on new retail orders of MY14 Auris (excluding Active) when ordered between 16th December 2014 and 31st March 2015 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 30th June 2015 on a 36 month Access Toyota (PCP) plan with 0-32% deposit. *Payment shown is based on a 36 month Access Toyota contract with £5,646.30 customer deposit, £750 Finance Deposit Allowance and Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment. Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC, registered office, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with these offers. Excess miles over 30,000 miles charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through Access Toyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

MY14 Auris Hybrid Icon Plus 5-door hatchback 1.8 VVT-i Auto (CVT). Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 74.3 (3.8), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 76.4 (3.7). CO₂ Emissions 87g/km. The mpg and CO₂ figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

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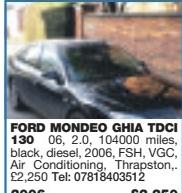
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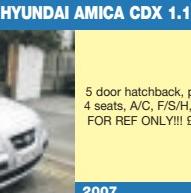


2006 £2,250

FORD MONDEO GHIA TDCI 130 06, 2.0, 104000 miles, black, diesel, 2006, FSH, VGC, Air Conditioning, Thrapston., £2,250 Tel: 07818403512

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Do it smoothly, without pausing between the numbers.

After you have heard their voice greeting you will be
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OR

You can reply
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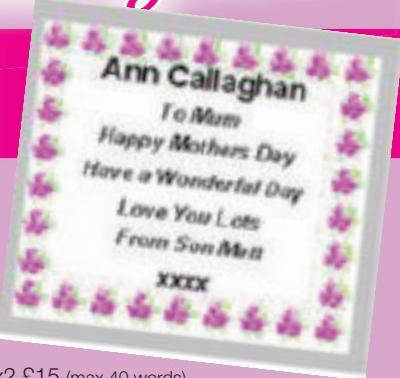
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Email your message to **bmd@jpress.co.uk**

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Booking deadline Monday 9th March 17.00hrs



5x2 £15 (max 40 words)

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Mary Watson

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Promotion

Registration for the latest Jobs Today virtual careers fair has now opened

Jobs today have opened registration for their latest national Virtual Careers Fair to connect talented job seekers to local and national employers.

The Virtual Careers Fair is an online platform where job seekers can browse top companies from across the UK, connect in a real time environment and apply for advertised vacancies; all for FREE and from the comfort of their computers. Proven a popular platform with both employers and job seekers alike, the 12 day fair will take place from the 2nd September to the 13th September.

Exciting online features include chat and video technology; businesses can bring to life their vacancies while job seekers can speak to employers to really show off their skills and expertise to help them land their next job. Job seekers can also take advantage of the compatibility test which allows them to find out which companies are most suited to them.

A wide range of employers will be attending to suit every candidate's needs – great businesses already booked to attend

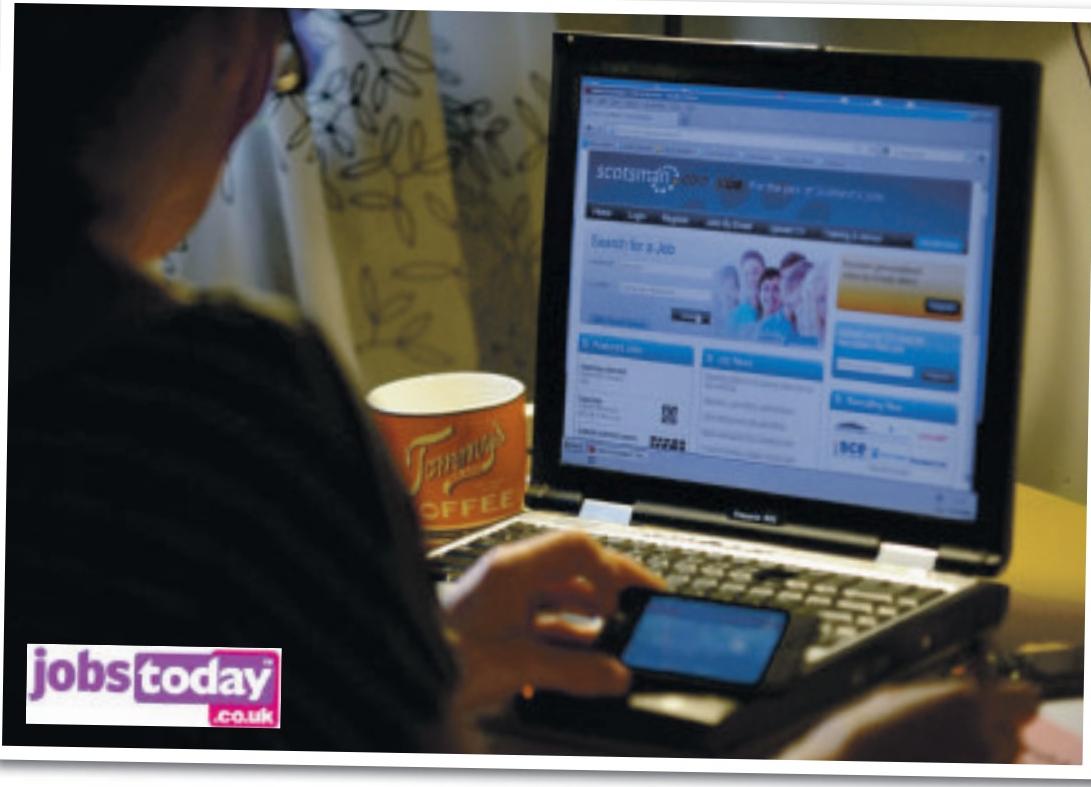
include Nationwide and Sodexo.

The pre-registration process will guarantee registrants entry to the event ensuring they don't miss out. Plus, all job seekers who register before the 2nd September will be automatically entered into a free prize draw to win an iPad Mini.

Joanne Harwood, Group Category Manager at Johnston Press, said: "Our aim is to help candidates and employers to connect all over the country. With busy lifestyles searching for that perfect job can be a time-consuming exercise, especially when trying to juggle existing work commitments. A virtual experience, which results in the same outcome by helping job seekers find better opportunities at the convenience of their homes, can only benefit job seekers."

Job seekers interested in the fair are encouraged to sign up for free today at www.jobstodaycareerafair.com to ensure they are guaranteed entry from the 2nd September.

Businesses can find out how to get involved by contacting 0114-299 6173 or emailing info@jobstoday.co.uk



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SPORT

Wood targeting another century

England star Tom proud to clock up 100 appearances in Saints colours

RUGBY

Tom Wood is targeting another century of appearances in Saints colours after reaching a ton against Harlequins on Friday night.

The England star came off the bench to score a crucial try in the 17-13 Aviva Premiership win at Franklin's Gardens.

In the process, he reached the 100-appearance mark, eight years after moving to Northampton from Worcester.

And Wood is setting his sights on more good times at Franklin's Gardens, where he has become a key member of the Saints success story.

"It crept up on me a little bit," said the influential flanker of his milestone moment. "I didn't notice until recently that it was coming up."

"I'm really proud. I've really enjoyed my time here at Northampton, it's a great town, a rugby town and the support is amazing."

"Most importantly, we've got a great set of lads and I just love coming to work everyday."

"I've really enjoyed my 100 and hopefully I can get to 200."

Meanwhile, Ken Pisi has warned Saints not to settle for first place in the Aviva Premier-

ship this season. Instead, the Samoan wants his side to keep pushing on as they bid to peak in the end-of-season play-offs.

Victory against Harlequins leaves Saints 12 points clear at the summit following the weekend's action.

But with a tricky final six games ahead, starting at Gloucester on Saturday, Pisi is determined not to switch off. "It (the challenge) will be not to get complacent," he said. "We are in a comfortable position and it's just about continuing to improve and not settling for that first place."

Saints were boosted by the return of England stars Courtney Lawes and Wood in last Friday's success.

And Pisi was full of praise for the pair as they each reached a milestone, with Lawes making his 150th Northampton appearance and Wood his 100th.

"It is always good to have those guys present on the field with Courtney's big hits and Woody's work rate," he said. "It's awesome."

"They're experienced players and you look up to them, especially when you are a young guy, fresh in the team."

"Those guys are the ones who pick you up and lead the way."



TON-UP TOM Tom Wood made his 100th appearance in Saints colours against Harlequins last Friday

PICTURE: KIRSTY EDMONDS

Brady 'overwhelmed' by Sinclair commitment

JON Brady admits he's 'amazingly overwhelmed' that Frank Sinclair continues to play for free at Brackley Town.

And the boss says the 43-year-old centre-back is 'the best player on the park' whenever he turns out for the Saints.

Former Chelsea and Leicester man Sinclair, who left his role as Colwyn Bay player-manager in January, initially agreed to play

RUGBY

for Brackley to help solve a defensive crisis.

But such was his impact on the Vanarama Northside, Brady was desperate to keep hold of him.

And Sinclair has continued to show his worth in recent weeks, with his manager labelling him 'immense' after Saturday's 1-0 defeat to Stockport County.

"Frank just wants to be

part of it," said Brady. "He loves playing."

"I'm absolutely overwhelmed that he continues to play for free and it's difficult to comprehend, but it just shows what he's all about."

"Whenever he plays he's the best player on the park. He was head and shoulders above everyone else last weekend."

Meanwhile, Brady has snapped up Dean Snedker

as he looks to make sure his side stay clear of the Vanarama Conference North relegation zone.

The young keeper, who spent time on-loan at St James Park earlier in the season, was recently released by Northampton Town and Brady moved quickly to sign him on a permanent basis.

Brady said: "Dean did very well when he was with us earlier and with the

March deadline coming up we needed to get some cover."

"Billy Turley cannot play every week with his back problems. He came out of retirement to help us out and has been fantastic for us, Dan Farrell has done very well when he's come in but he's still very young."

Saints lost to Stockport County on Saturday and Brady knows his side must find some consistency if they are to reach his 50 points target.

Brady said: "The players are giving me everything but their decision making is still costing us late on in games."

"I want us to get 14 points from our remaining 10 games because I still think we can reach our 50-point target but I will settle for 12 which should be enough."

"It's going to be tight and I've told the players that consistency is the key to success, at all levels."